



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services  
Risk Management Agency

August 20, 2003

**INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM**

**TO: ALL NORTHEAST REINSURED COMPANIES**

**FROM: CLIFTON R. PARKER /s/ Pamela J. Hart  
ACTING DIRECTOR**

**SUBJECT: VINIFERA GRAPE WRITTEN AGREEMENT GUIDELINES**

**BACKGROUND:**

Section 4, item #3, page 87 of the 2004 Crop Insurance Handbook allows the RMA Regional Office to issue additional guidelines to determine adaptability of the crop for written agreement requests.

**DETERMINATION:**

Vinifera grape vines, especially newly planted grape vines, are susceptible to winter freeze damage. Some vinifera grape varieties are more susceptible to freeze damage than other varieties, but all vinifera grape varieties are susceptible to freeze damage during the first several years after planting. Additional guidelines are needed to determine insurability and rates that will be assigned to the written agreement requests.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

The following items are required before requests for vinifera grape written agreements may be considered:

- 1) For vinifera grape varieties, **at least 5 crop years of APH records with an average yield of 2 tons/acre, (after reaching the production minimum of 2 tons/acre)**, is required by the RMA Raleigh Regional Office (RO) before the request can be considered (e.g., chardonnay grapes planted in the spring of 1995, meeting the minimum in 1999):



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The Risk Management Agency Administers and Oversees  
All Programs Authorized Under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

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**VINIFERA GRAPE WRITTEN AGREEMENT GUIDELINES**

11 BLOCK NO.: 1  
 12 AGE: 9      13 DENSITY: 1008

10 YEAR	14 PROD.	15 ACRES	16 YIELD
1995	0	2.1	
1996	0	2.1	
1997	0	2.1	
1998	2.3	2.1	
1999	5.6	2.1	2.7
2000	6.7	2.1	3.2
2001	0	2.1	0
2002	2.4	2.1	1.1
2003	6.3	2.1	3.0
		TOTAL	10.0

17 T-YIELD ADJ. \_\_\_\_\_  
 18 AVERAGE YIELD 10 ÷ 5 = 2.0

See: The 2004 New York grape actuarial documents for Groups D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, and Types 210, 211, 212, 213, and 214, shown as insurable by written agreement. The RMA Raleigh RO can issue written agreements for insurable vinifera grape varieties and acreage meeting the 5 years APH, 2 Tons/Acre average.

- 2) A complete Pre-Acceptance Perennial Crop Inspection Report and supporting documentation as outlined in the CIH Section 7F(6). The inspection must show the location of each block of grapes (sketch map and FSA aerial photos), distance from the nearest lake or large body of water, aspect of slope (north, south, east, or west side), elevation, variety, year planted for each variety, acres, and rootstock. Note: The location, or “microclimate” is an important risk factor for vinifera grapes.
  
- 3) The vinifera grape requests will be considered by the Raleigh RO if the Request for Actuarial Change and RMA RO Determined Yield Request forms and required supporting documentation as outlined above with producer signatures are submitted by the deadline, (sales closing or cancellation date), postmarked within 20 calendar days after the deadline, and received by the Raleigh RO within 10 days after the 20<sup>th</sup> day.